

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 22, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 22, 2005. Claims 1-81 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-81 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Species I – Tubing connector with a first and a second member

Species II – Tubing connector with a first and a second member and an axially deformable member

Species III – Tubing connector with a first expandable tubing section including a perforated inner expandable tubing with a solid unperforated tubing wall section extending axially between the hole and the ring

Applicants provisionally elect Species I, without traverse. Applicants believe claims 1-27, 43-61, 63-78, 80-82, and 84 read on Species I.

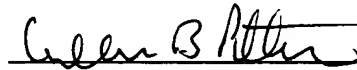
Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More specifically, the Examiner states that various species must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims. As indicated above, Applicants have elected Species I and Applicants believe that claims 1-27, 43-61, 63-78, 80-82, and 84 are shown in Figures 1-6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the drawings be removed.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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